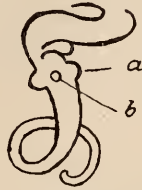


No. XXV.—THE RUDIMENTARY HIND LIMB IN AN EMBRYO OF *PYTHON MOLURUS*.

In Volume XXV of this Journal (page 509) Mr. D'Abreu has contributed a particularly interesting note on the breeding of *Python molurus* in captivity.

Among other interesting observations he records the existence of two minute prominences—the rudiments of the hind limb—in a young embryo about three inches long.



- (a) Rudimentary hind limb
represented by a bud—
(b) Opening of cloaca

I wrote to him on the subject, and suggested that the prominences referred to might prove to be the rudiments of the male clasper, and not the rudiments of a limb. In reply he has very courteously sent me the specimens to examine, and I am pleased to be able to confirm his observation, and have made a drawing of the condition. The opening of the cloaca is seen as a circular orifice. On either side, and on the lateral surface of body, low down, is a bud-like projection. When the embryo is viewed in profile this bud is seen to be oval shaped, and obliquely placed, the largest diameter passing backwards and downwards. I could discern nothing to suggest rudiments of an anterior limb.

F. WALL, LIEUT.-COL., I.M.S.

BANGALORE, 16th April 1919.

No. XXVI.—THE HABITS OF THE GREEN WHIP SNAKE
DRYOPHIS MYCTERIZANS.

With reference to the note on "The Habits of *Dryophis mycterizans*" published in the Journal—Vol. XXVI, No. 2, p. 681—, may I inform Mr. A. M. Kinloch that I have come to look upon *D. mycterizans* "eating" other snakes as quite a common occurrence? Among the victims I may mention *Helicops schistosus*, *Tropidonotus piticator*, *T. platyceps*, *Polyodontophis collaris*. In all these cases the victim's head was well in the mouth of the aggressor and was kept there from two to five minutes before being released. I always examined the victim as soon as set free and never noticed any tooth marking on the head, nor was there any appreciable quantity of saliva about it. The last case on record occurred recently, in March 1919, the victim being another *D. mycterizans* whose head was well down the throat of the aggressor at the time of my arrival on the spot. The victim's head was disgorged three minutes after and was found to show no tooth puncture; it was, however, covered with saliva, a sign that deglutition had begun. Both the aggressor and its victim are still in my serpentarium living together in perfect harmony, with a rather mixed crowd of other snakes.